

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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SMALLER PRODUCTION OF 13 OUT OF 22 VEGETABLE SEEDS INDICATED;
DECREASED ACREAGE MORE THAN OFFSETS INCREASED YIELD PER ACRE

Production of 13 out of 22 important kinds of vegetable seeds is indicated to be smaller this year than last, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. This statement is based on reports from nearly all the commercial growers of these seeds during the last half of September and the first half of October. Production of 16 seeds is expected to be below the 1940-44 average. The largest prospective (percentage) decreases from last year's production are for rutabaga, mangelwurzel, turnip, onion, carrot, garden beet, and radish. Crops with the largest indicated increases are cauliflower, romaine lettuce, wrinkled peas, and cucumber.

Decreased production of a majority of the seeds is attributed to reductions in acreage, as most yields per acre are expected to be larger this year than last, and also larger than average. Of the 14 seeds each with a smaller acreage than last year, decreases are most marked for rutabaga, mangelwurzel, turnip, onion, carrot, and garden beet. Increases in acreage are largest for wrinkled peas, tomato, cauliflower, and cucumber.

Yields per acre of 14 seeds are expected to be larger than in 1945, and prospective yields of 15 are above average. Kinds of seed indicating largest increases over 1945 yields are cauliflower, romaine lettuce, Swiss chard, garden beet, heading lettuce, and spinach. Most marked decreases in yields are indicated for rutabaga, mangelwurzel, and radish.

In the mid-September survey, production of 14 kinds is indicated to be smaller than was reported in March, when some of the seeds had not even been planted and before abandonment, and weather and insect damage could be fully anticipated. Of the 14 kinds, declines from March intentions or expectations are indicated to be most marked for spinach, turnip, heading lettuce, Swiss chard, and romaine lettuce. Largest increases over March indications are for summer squash, winter squash, and cucumber.

The September 15 condition of the 22 vegetable seeds together was the best in the four years for which condition records are available. The condition of each of these seeds this year followed in parentheses by mid-September conditions in 1945 and 1944, respectively, was as follows: dwarf green beans, 98 (97 and 86) percent of a full (normal) yield per acre; garden beet, 95 (81 and 88); mangelwurzel, 102 (95 and 96); cabbage, 99 (79 and 83); carrot, 96 (82 and 94); cauliflower, 98 (78 and 90); Swiss chard, 95 (85 and 96); hybrid sweetcorn, 103 (99 and 94); open-pollinated sweetcorn, 94 (100 and 80); cucumber, 100 (93 and 81); heading lettuce, 75 (69 and 81); loose-leaf lettuce, 100 (89 and 88); romaine lettuce, 109 (99 and 92); onion, 86 (82 and 87); wrinkled peas, 103 (88 and 94); radish, 99 (125 and 86); spinach, 83 (83 and 87); summer squash, 117 (96 and 96); winter squash, 98 (112 and 101); tomato, 75 (72 and 68); turnip, 93 (88 and 77), and rutabaga, 81 (94 and 68).

(Over)

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ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION OF 22 VEGETABLE-SEED CROPS

Kind of Seed	Acreage				Production			
	1946				1946			
	1945	March	July	Sept.	1945	March	July	Sept.
	survey	survey	survey	survey	survey	survey	survey	survey
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Dwarf green beans	33,985	32,930	--	33,250	29,685	28,928	--	30,664
Garden beet	4,645	2,250	2,180	2,080	2,598	1,465	1,630	1,458
Mangelwurzel	1,493	303	240	247	1,755	257	215	211
Cabbage	1,868	1,493	1,390	1,345	860	689	750	586
Carrot	5,310	2,207	2,010	1,985	1,889	873	795	718
Cauliflower	108	138	130	137	26	51	50	54
Swiss chard	199	114	90	91	137	112	65	87
Hybrid sweetcorn	7,737	7,712	--	7,750	10,293	10,832	--	11,612
Open poll. sweetcorn	5,668	3,904	--	3,900	6,669	5,154	--	4,675
Cucumber	6,478	7,707	--	8,045	1,516	1,809	--	2,071
Heading lettuce	3,977	4,616	4,060	4,080	628	1,049	860	770
Loose-leaf "	648	450	435	452	217	169	150	168
Romaine "	143	218	170	150	37	78	55	61
Onion	8,360	3,058	2,335	2,460	2,374	949	780	771
Wrinkled peas	100,467	134,179	141,000	134,445	84,737	128,873	134,000	130,162
Radish	5,241	4,010	4,160	4,180	2,101	1,346	1,225	1,263
Spinach	1,178	1,536	955	880	600	1,077	625	533
Summer squash	1,477	1,503	--	1,770	487	380	--	574
Winter "	1,773	1,216	--	1,535	246	128	--	172
Tomato	11,895	13,972	--	15,175	469	577	--	481
Turnip	4,661	1,430	960	944	3,279	984	730	661
Rutabaga	640	41	45	48	535	21	25	25